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24 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 22 June 1998 addressed to you from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations (S/1998/556).

The letter addressed to you contains nothing which is based on facts. The quotation in the letter attributed to our Vice-Minister is in fact a fictitious story, which only shows to what extent Eritrea is prepared to go to prevent the Security Council from discharging its responsibility in preventing the outbreak of a full-scale war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which, as Ethiopia has said repeatedly, is quite inevitable as long as Eritrea refuses to give peace a chance and undo what it has created by force.

I have no doubt that the Security Council and the whole world knows that an aggression was committed against Ethiopia and that its territory is still occupied by Eritrea. It is also known that, although Ethiopia has a right under international law and the Charter of the United Nations to take the necessary and appropriate action in self-defence, Ethiopia has so far imposed self-restraint in the belief that with the help of third parties, Africa and the international community, namely, the Security Council, it might be possible to find a peaceful solution to the crisis caused by the Eritrean aggression against Ethiopia.

This is the basis for Ethiopia's full cooperation with the facilitators and the mutual friends of Ethiopia and Eritrea. That the same cannot be said for Eritrea is obvious, and that is why it was felt by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) that an appeal should be made to the two parties to cooperate with the facilitators and to accept and implement the proposal submitted by them.

The OAU decision reinforcing the efforts of the facilitators was adopted despite Eritrea's various attempts to prevent the OAU summit from pronouncing itself on the matter. But that Eritrean effort did not work.

Now it has become the Security Council's turn to be the focus of the Eritrean disinformation campaign, which is essentially aimed at preventing the Council form reinforcing whatever slim chance there is for resolving this tragic crisis through peaceful means. This is Ethiopia's wish, and its first priority, as a means of protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity, which have been violated by Eritrea. We felt that the Security Council could contribute to this objective by putting the necessary pressure on Eritrea, as the OAU summit had already done. We wanted the Security Council to be seized with the matter because we thought the pressure coming from the Security Council could make the Eritrean authorities see reason and give peace a chance. The Eritrean wish is to divert the attention of the Security Council from the crux of the matter and from the core issue that needs to be addressed so that the crisis can be resolved peacefully. That core issue is the removal by Eritrea of the new fact it has created in Ethiopia by violating its sovereignty. In short, what Eritrea has created by force should be undone, first and foremost. That is what the facilitators have proposed and that is what the OAU summit has endorsed. Eritrea should not be allowed to succeed in confusing the international community through disinformation.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1173 (1998) dated 12 June 1998, in which the Council decided that additional measures against UNITA specified in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the said resolution would come into force on 25 June 1998, unless UNITA has fully cooperated, by 23 June, in the immediate extension of State administration throughout Angola, including in particular in Andulo, Bailundo, Mungo and N'Harea, and stopped any attempts to reverse this process.

My Special Representative for Angola, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, has informed me that, as a result of intensive consultations undertaken in the last few days, the leader of UNITA, Mr. Jonas Savimbi, did not set specific dates for the implementation of the extension of State administration in the four strategic localities, but expressed his willingness to cooperate in the normalization of these localities by 30 June 1998. Initially, the President of Angola, Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, had agreed that the date of the entry into force of the additional sanctions be postponed until 30 June 1998, on the condition that Mr. Savimbi indicate specific dates for the normalization of the four localities mentioned above. However, in the course of further contacts, and responding to the request of my Special Representative, President dos Santos decided not to insist on this condition and agreed with the proposal to defer the entry into force of the sanctions until 30 June.

At a meeting held today, the Joint Commission, which is chaired by my Special Representative and includes the representatives of the Government, UNITA and the three observer States (Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States), endorsed Mr. Beye's suggestion to recommend to the Security Council to postpone the date of the entry into force of the additional measures against UNITA from 25 June, as specified in resolution 1173 (1998), to 30 June 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

98-18030 (E) 240698

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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement on Kosovo issued by the Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group, meeting together with the Foreign Ministers of Canada and Japan in London on 12 June 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to
the United Nations

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Annex

Statement on Kosovo issued by the Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group in London on 12 June 1998

1. Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group, meeting together with the Foreign Ministers of Canada and Japan, turned from their discussion of the recent nuclear tests carried out by India and Pakistan to address the serious deterioration of the situation in Kosovo, which represents a significant threat to regional security and peace.

2. Ministers repeated that no solution to the problems of Kosovo can be found through violence. The parties must take urgent steps to end the violence and bring about a political solution to the crisis.

3. Security forces have again intervened indiscriminately, causing many civilian casualties and forcing tens of thousands of inhabitants to flee their homes. Ministers condemned Belgrade's massive and disproportionate use of force, which has resulted in widespread destruction and the deliberate displacement of large numbers of people. They also condemned the failure by Belgrade to take concrete steps to reduce tensions. Ministers therefore decided to put to the authorities in Belgrade a set of essential points on which they required immediate action to prevent any further deterioration in the situation. These cover concrete measures:

- To cease all action by the security forces affecting the civilian population and order the withdrawal of security units used for civilian repression;

- To enable effective and continuous international monitoring in Kosovo and allow unimpeded access for monitors;

- To facilitate, in agreement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the full return to their homes of refugees and displaced persons and to allow free and unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations and supplies to Kosovo;

- To make rapid progress in the dialogue with the Kosovo Albanian leadership.

4. Ministers expect the Kosovo Albanian leadership to make clear its rejection of violence and acts of terrorism. It is essential that Kosovo Albanian extremists refrain from further violent attacks. A political dialogue is unlikely to take root if violence continues to be espoused by members of the Kosovo Albanian community. Our Governments will work with others, including those in the region, to ensure that all those seeking to escalate the crisis through violence are denied financial and material support. Ministers also expressed support for those in the Kosovo Albanian leadership who are committed to peaceful dialogue.

5. Ministers insist that the fighting stop and effective dialogue, capable of producing meaningful early results, resume quickly. Belgrade and the Kosovo Albanian leadership must agree to a continuous dialogue to discuss confidence-building measures and to find a political solution to the problems of Kosovo, with international involvement. There must be a clear timetable for rapid progress, and President Milosevic, as President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, has a special responsibility to ensure that steps are taken to achieve a political solution.

6. Ministers expect that Belgrade will take the steps set out in paragraph 3 above immediately. They welcomed the invitation by President Yeltsin to President Milosevic to a meeting on 16 June. They stressed the importance of President Milosevic taking advantage of that meeting to announce progress on the above steps and to commit Belgrade to their implementation in full. If the steps set out in paragraph 3 are not taken without delay, there will be moves to adopt further measures to halt the violence and protect the civilian population, including those that may require the authorization of a Security Council resolution.

7. In the meantime, faced with the growing crisis in Kosovo, Ministers also:

- Urged the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to undertake a rapid and thorough investigation of any possible violations of international humanitarian law in Kosovo;

- Agreed to give active support to UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations dealing with the humanitarian cost of the crisis in the region;

- Undertook to accelerate efforts to assist neighbouring countries to improve their security and to cope with the humanitarian burden imposed upon them.

8. The Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America confirmed their decision to implement the ban on new investment in Serbia and to freeze funds held abroad by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbian Governments, and agreed to take steps to ban flights by Yugoslav carriers between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and their countries. Japan supported that approach and agreed to consider similar action. The Russian Federation does not associate itself with those measures.

9. Ministers again underlined the importance of the early launching of the mission of the Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in order to establish a dialogue across the full range of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's relations with OSCE, and of the return of the long-term OSCE missions.

10. Ministers will review these decisions in the light of developments.

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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the letter dated 15 June 1998 form Mr. Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, addressed to you (S/1998/513). In his letter, Mr. Al-Sahaf accused Kuwait of misrepresenting the press statements made by Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, Vice-President of Iraq, during his recent visit to the Kingdom of Morocco, concerning demarcation of the boundary between Kuwait and Iraq. He also accused Kuwait of attempting to deceive the Security Council and further alleged that the Vice-President of Iraq had never referred to the legal value of Security Council resolution 833 (1993).

Since the clarifications given by Iraq in the above-mentioned letter of the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs refuted the press reports and accused Kuwait of falsifying and distorting the quoted statements, and in order to disclose the facts to the members of the Security Council and expose the allegations made by Iraqi officials, I am pleased to enclose herewith a recorded tape of the press interview given by the Vice-President of Iraq, Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, during which he made his irresponsible remarks on the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait by the United Nations. The tape categorically affirms the accuracy of the letter dated 9 June 1998 from the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait addressed to you (S/1998/484), as well as the accuracy of the press report in this connection. Mr. Ramadhan said the following:

> "Now the matter of boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, which was settled by the Security Council - I do not wish to raise it before the press because I have my own opinion on it - (laughing) but legally it has no value because there is nothing in the entire Charter of the United Nations which states that the Security Council should discuss the demarcation of a boundary between any two States in the world. Anything relating to sovereignty is a matter for the States - a State is entitled not to fulfil any adopted resolution which affects its sovereignty."

Finally, I wish to emphasize once again the seriousness of this statement, which reveals the hostile intentions of Iraqi officials towards Kuwait and demonstrates how they make light of Security Council resolutions and international law. It is also an attempt to circumvent the relevant Security Council resolutions and avoid the legal obligations stipulated in those resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative